

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218258
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218258

USOECD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: US PERFORMANCE IN COCOM

REF: PARIS 20692, 25302, AND 25672

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR SALZMAN AND/OR HIS STAFF
MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO THE COCOM CHAIRMAN:

1. HIS FRANK JULY 11 APPRAISAL TO THE AMBASSADOR IS BEING
TAKEN MOST SERIOUSLY IN WASHINGTON. STEPS HAVE BEEN
INITIATED TO IMPROVE INTERNAL US PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING
COCOM CASES AND FOR REVIEWING PROPOSALS FOR DEFINITIONAL
CHANGES. WE ARE FOR THE TIME BEING GIVING COCOM CASES A
SOMEWHAT HIGHER PRIORITY THAN PURELY US CASES, IN RECOGNI-
TION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. SEVERAL
ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT CASES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND ONE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL. EVEN SUCH EXTRAORDINARY STEPS ARE SOMETIMES
INSUFFICIENT. IN SUCH CASES THERE ARE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC
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RISKS WHICH WE FEEL CANNOT RESPONSIBLY BE QUICKLY RESOLVED.
WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. BUT EXTRA-
ORDINARY EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE.

2. HIS ESTIMATE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE BELGIAN

OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION PROPOSAL WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

WE WERE ENCOURAGED THAT BELGIUM WITHDREW ITS THREAT TO UNILATERALLY LIFT THE LARGE MACHINE TOOL EMBARGO FOR SIX MONTHS. WE ALSO HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER MEMBERS, ARE STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT THE UNANIMITY RULE SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DO NOT WISH TO DISMISS THE THREAT OF THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL PREMATURELY. THE RESULTS OF HIS INFORMAL SOUNDINGS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO US. VANCE

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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